

NBI #

To be filled in by MTA

**Strong Campaign for
Public Sector Right to Strike Without Restrictions**

April 28, 2023

NBI NAME

Date and Time

Peggy Wang

Association of Professional Administrators

Delegate Making the Motion

Association Represented or Retired

Miranda Alpert

Wellesley Educators Association

Delegate Seconding the Motion

Association Represented or Retired

According to the MTA Standing/Special Rules:

With the exception of items on the agenda, all substantive motions shall be submitted in writing to the Presiding Officer.

MOTION

MOVED:

The MTA will initiate a strong campaign to win the public sector right to strike without restrictions.

- Our union will not support any legislation that includes a mandated waiting period before exercising a legal right to strike. Current legislation being considered in the Massachusetts Legislature mandates a 6 month waiting period before going on strike. If restrictions on the right to strike are codified in law, this will be used by management as a delaying tactic and a way to diffuse or suppress strike action. An example of this are the “cooling off periods” and other legal maneuvers used recently to suppress a potential strike by the railroad worker unions.
- Our union will help win the right to strike for public sector workers by uniting statewide as MTA members across locals for joint mass rallies, protests, walkouts, and strikes, including actions by the end of the school year.
- Our union will reach out to other public sector union leaders and rank-and-file members to organize joint mass rallies, protests, walkouts, and strikes.
- Our union will discontinue any endorsements of and financial support for the Democratic or Republican Parties; both parties have made clear their opposition to public sector unions having the right to strike for better conditions.
- Our union will run and support labor candidates independent from any corporate party, including members of the MTA and other labor organizations, for public office to promote union rights, including legislation for the right to strike without restrictions.

SUBMITTER’S RATIONALE:

In the past year, MTA members of 4 locals (Brookline, Malden, Haverhill, and Woburn) have bravely gone on strike for better contracts. We commend them for leading the way in defying anti-union laws to win better pay and working conditions our members crucially need.

While it is clearly possible to strike without legal protections, our unions would be able to win better contracts if we had protections against fines, legal harassment, and attempts to criminalize strikes.

We saw striking locals attacked with fines of \$30k+ per day, and in Woburn, the mayor charged the educators \$250k in “damages,” despite the town having \$68 million in free cash. These anti-union measures are legally-sanctioned methods that our employers use to intimidate our members, many of whom are afraid to walk out, even if the fines are well worth the pay increases won in new contracts.

No local should have to stand out on its own in a contract fight. This is why the MTA must advocate for the public sector right to strike without restrictions. We should do this by launching joint campaigns across our locals and by reaching out to other public sector unions to coordinate this effort through mass rallies, protests, walkouts, and strikes. We need to stop endorsing the two corporate parties who don’t serve the interests of working people, and we need to discontinue financial support for corporate politicians who pay us lip service but stand opposed to our union and undermine our efforts to improve living standards. This includes Democrats like Maura Healey, who the MTA endorsed for Governor, and who has gone on record saying she does not support lifting the ban on public sector strikes. Healey, and both the Democratic and Republican Parties in the state legislature, just supported a big tax break for the rich. The MTA should run and support labor candidates independent from any corporate party, including members of the MTA and other labor organizations, for public office to promote union rights, including legislation for the right to strike without restrictions.

DUES IMPACT:

\$0

SUBMITTER’S COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE:

\$0

0hrs

MTA COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE (For MTA use only):